

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-11 OMB-01 IGA-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 /082 W

----- 015096

R 151350Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 620

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1873

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IS

SUBJECT: AID TO WEST BANK: ANERA

REF: A) TEL AVIV 1645; B) STATE 54687 (NOTAL)

1. IN MARCH 12 MEETING WITH EMBOFF, ANERA PROJECT DIRECTOR ROBERT FISHER DETAILED RESULTS OF HIS MARCH 9 SESSION WITH DR. AVITSOUR OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SEE TEL AVIV 1645). FISHER SAID THAT AVITSOUR REITERATED NECESSITY FOR JOINT DECISIONS AND JOINT ACTIONS. AVITSOUR HAD NOT, HOWEVER, MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF ANERA EXPLUSION IF DESIRED COOPERATION NOT FORTHCOMING. WHEN QUESTIONED ON THIS POINT, FISHER SAID THAT ELI TSUR (MSW FIELD WORKER AND AVITSOUR SUBORDINATE) HAD MENTIONED EARLIER IN VISIT THAT QUOTE YOU KNOW, WE CAN STOP YOUR OPERATIONS IF NECESSARY UNQUOTE, BUT AVITSOUR HIMSELF MADE NO SUCH STATEMENT AT ANY TIME. EMBOFF NOTED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AVITSOUR, LATTER SAID THAT UNLESS ANERA COOPERATED LIKE OTHER AGENCIES, GOI WOULD ASK EMBASSY AND AID TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR ANERA. FOR THE PRESENT, FISHER SAID, HE AND AVITSOUR HAD AGREED THAT ANERA AND MSW WOULD EXCHANGE BY MAIL THEIR RESPECTIVE LISTS OF PROPOSED GRANT PARTICIPANTS AFTER HE HAD RETURNED TO U.S. TO COMPLETE ANERA

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SELECTION PROCESS.

2. ADDRESSING QUESTION OF JOINT DECISIONS/ACTION, FISHER SAID THAT ISRAELI VETO OF ANERA-SELECTED PROJECTS WOULD FORCE ANERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO CONSIDER DISCONTINUING PROGRAM. EMBOFF ASSURED FISHER THAT IN ROUTINE DEALINGS WITH OTHER AMERICAN GROUPS LIKE CRS AND LWF, ISRAELIS HAVE VERY INFREQUENTLY VETOED ANYTHING, AND THAT IN PRACTICE VOLAGS CONDUCT OPERATIONS QUIETLY AND WITHOUT HARASSMENT. EMBOFF SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ANERA SHOULD EXPECT ISRAELIS TO BE UNYIELDING IN ANY INSTANCE WHERE GRANT PARTICIPANT CONSIDERED BY THEM TO BE SECURITY-RELATED PROBLEM. FISHER CONCURRED (HE HAS SPOKEN WITH OTHER VOLAG REPRESENTATIVES MORE THAN ONCE DURING LOCAL VISITS) AND SAID THAT HIS PERSONAL SUGGESTION TO ANERA BOARD WOULD BE TO CONTINUE WITH PROGRAM.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN APPROACHED BY MFA AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BE UNLESS PROBLEMS DEVELOP OVER FY 76 GRANT PARTICIPANTS. FISHER CONFIDENTLY ASSERTS THAT "THE ISRAELIS CAN'T FAULT US ON THE CHOICES (OF PARTICIPANTS) WE MADE." WE WISH ANERA CONTINUED SUCCESS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, PALESTINIANS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV01873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760097-0687
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760359/aaaabzve.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 1645, 76 STATE 54687
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AID TO WEST BANK: ANERA
TAGS: EAID, IS, ANERA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006